

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on May 8, 2006 ("Office Action"). Claims 1-17, 19-35, and 37 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 19, 12, 30, 17, 35, 2, 20, 3, 21, 4, 22, 5, 23, 6, 24, 7, and 25 have been rejected in this Office Action. Claims 8-11, 13-16, 26-29, and 31-34 have been objected to in this Office Action. The Examiner has allowed Claim 37. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 19 and 27. Applicants have added claims 38-41. Applicants have cancelled Claims 18, 20-26, 30-34 and 36. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 19, 12, 30, 17, and 35 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,765,892 to Leung et al. ("*Leung*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,342 to Schwartz et al. ("*Schwartz*"). Claims 2, 20, 3, 21, 4, 22, 5, 23, 6, 24, 7, and 25 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,765,892 to Leung et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,342 to Schwartz et al. as applied to Claim 1 and 19, respectively, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,327 to Sipple et al. ("*Sipple*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent Claim 1 is allowable at least because *Schwartz* fails to disclose, expressly or inherently, that if a system metric is above a threshold, the join request manager, itself, drops one or more packets containing the request, thus denying the request. The Office Action relies on *Schwartz* (column 12, lines 9-27) as teaching this limitation; however, this reliance is misplaced. This passage from *Schwartz* clearly states that the "input port module" is the entity that drops such packets, but not a join request manager as claimed. For at least this reason, Independent Claim 1 is allowable, as are Claims 2-17 that depend therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

The Office Action states that Claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have done so as Independent Claim 19. Accordingly, Independent Claim 19 is allowable, as are Claims 27-29 and 35 that

depend therefrom. Favorable action is requested. The cancellation of Claims 20-25 and 30 renders moot their rejection.

Additionally, the Office Action states that Claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have done so as Independent Claim 38. Accordingly, Independent Claim 38 is allowable, as are Claims 39-41 that depend therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

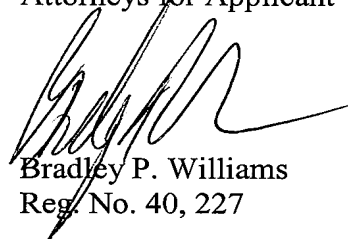
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicant



Bradley P. Williams
Reg. No. 40, 227

Date: June 16, 2006

Correspondence Address:

Customer Number: **05073**